

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph extending from page 3, line 15 to page 4, line 7 with the following replacement:

--Various solutions to the problems of shaping glass tubes are disclosed in Applicants' co-pending applications titled "Apparatus and Method For Shaping Glass Tubes" (Application Serial No. 09/497,044, filed February 2, ²⁰⁰⁰~~2002~~) and "Apparatus and Methods For Shaping Glass Tubes With Molds" (Application Serial No. 09/497,043, filed February 2, 2000). However, in the molding operation disclosed in those applications, the exhaust tube must be heated to a very high temperature by means of a torch until the end region of the tube becomes soft. Then, the torch is removed and the mold pieces are applied to the end region of the tube. During the time the torch is removed and until the mold pieces are applied, the end region of the tube undergoes some cooling whereby, when the mold is applied, the tube may not have the desired softness. Overheating the tube end to compensate for the ensuing cooling may result in the tube end deforming in an undesired manner. The prior art schemes also require that the torch be moved via a motor or other control means under relatively high temperature conditions.--